RAJYA-SABHA

Tuesday, the 9th May,* 1989/*19th Vaisakha_* 1911 *(Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

U.S. Congress observation regarding Military relations with India

*201. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have seen an observation by the U.S defence department in its presentation of annual programme to the Congress that it seeks to expand "Emerging military-to-military relations with India because of its key role in maintaining regional peace and stability" if so. the Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) whether any new programme of cooperation in military technology is being taken up with the U.SA.. if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Government are aware of these observations.

(b) Exploring possible cooperation in technological areas of benefit to our defence interests is an on-going programme.

SHRl KAPIL VERMA; Sir, I would like to know what the technological areas are which are to be explored for possible co-operation. Is it correct that vita! equipment has gone into the building of th$_e$ Agni missile which has been obtained from the United States? Were there any conditions attached by the United States to the use of these acquisitions?

I would also like to know whether the Chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee. Senator Bingman, asked the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce to prohibit issue of the export licences to two US firms for sale to India of the combined Acceleration Vibration climatic Test System which is called climatic system and if so, what has been the impact of this on our missile programme. Is it also correct that the US asked the Government of India about our missile programme to convey its concern and, if so, what was our reply? Is it also correct that Mr. Bingman raised a question in his own Sub-Committee that the US will have to reconsider, the question of multilateral assistance to India in the case of development of Agni and also stop technology for our Space programmes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT); Sir, on the question of technology co-operation, apart from the training of Indian service officers in the USA and reciprocal visits of officers from the two services, which **have** going on for many years, since 1985, we have focused on defence technology co-operation. Defence technology co-operation commenced with the release of GE-404 engines for the LCA in 85 and th$_e$ US Government suggested the "Mission Area" approach for co-operation. The following mission areas were proposed by us.

(1) LCA, in their aeronautics field;

(2) Missile test range instrumentation and training; and

(3) Third-generation anti-armour system.

A number of products and technologies identified by us have been released for the LCA programme

So this is the broad contour of the technological cooperation broad approach. So far as the other question, the basic

t The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kapil Verma 361 R.S.—1

question, of our missile programme i'[3] concerned, our missile programme is an indigenous effort and is based on our own technology in the sense that our engineers or scientists are working on this programme and we strongly feel that no one can put any curbs on us so far as the development of indigenous technology is concerned. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, while congratulating the Government for its very strong stand on this issue and its correct attitude, which is in keeping with our national honour and defence requirements. I want to ask why progress was so slow at the moment on LCA on which we collaborate with the USA? Are we getting the entire technology and equipment in respect of the system we have obtained from the U.S. in this collaboration programme? Are there any strings attached to it? What is the progress $_0$n our own Indian engine? (b) according to Press reports lndia has created a new office of Counsellor in our US Embassy to explore defence cooperation with the arms manufacturers and thePentagon with a mandate to diversify India's defence deals with US beyond the LCA project. What projects has the Government in mind f^{or} diversification?

SHRI K, C. PANT: Sir, I would not say (hat the LCA programme is moving very slowly. If' it i_s compared with similar programmes in any country, even the developed countries—pf course. it is taking a long time, there is no doubt about it. But any new aircraft developed even abroad by a country which has experience of develop-" fighter aircrafts earlier would lake a fair amount of time; it would take a decade perhaps or more. And we are doing it for the first time. Therefore. I think the House will bear with the Government in this matter that we perhaps **are** taking time. But necessarily in this area of new technology tim$_e$ has to be taken. A lot of money is involved. Before we go in for productionisation, we have to try to develop the technology test it at each stage, and in fact at this particular stage we have not yet taken the final decision and go in for productionisation beacuse that will follow after the necessary preliminary work has been done.

As far as the technology coming from the USA is concerned, as the hon. Member probably knows, we have collaboration with the French also in this area and with the US. . *(P.iterruptions)* of the design and concept of some other areas. In so for as the LCA cooperation agreement with the USA is concerned, it covers technology disciplines in aeronautics like digital flight control, light weight composites for aircraft structures and system integration.

So this will give you an idea of the kinds of collaboration with the USA and with the French.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: What are the plan$_s$ for diversification?

SHRI K. C. PANT: There are n_0 specific plans for diversification as such. But whatever is in national interest, from wherever we can get it we will get it.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the US Defence Department has in its report to US Congress said that the US International Military Education Training Programme had promoted India's self-reliance and had encouraged increased contacts and cooperation between the US and Indian military services. Solarz. Committee had also recommended four million dollars for military education, and training. May I know from the Government (a) what are the highlights of the programme underway if any and what are the future plans and (b) what is Government's reaction to th$_e$ hypo-critical action of and United States and six other western countries which hav; formed a missile technology control regime to deny missile technology to third world countries and what has been the impact of this regime on the third world countries including India? Our Ambassador, Mr. Kaul, has said that within the overall contract about Light Combat Aircraft with the United States, other companies are signing contracts to provide supplementary equipment and technology particularly in avionics. What are the highlights of this?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, so far as training aspect is concerned, as I said in the beginning, there has been an existing programme between the two countries over the years For instance, in 1986 we accepted 23 vacancies in courses in the United States, in 1987—23, in 1988—11 and in 1989—17. We hav$_e$ projected seven additional course requirements. So. there is this kind of exchange. It has been going o$_n$ for quite some time. In this naturally we are guided by the Ministry of External Affairs as to how many slots we can avail of in a particular year. Similarly, on the pan of the United States, there has been a keen desire to participate in our N.D.C. an j DSSC training courses: They have also availed of slots which we have given them in these courses. Apart from that, I believe they had wanted to send someone to our training school in Mhow and the Government of India ha$_s$ accepted that too.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: He has **not** replied to question about missile control regime.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I have really replied to it in the beginning.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I must congratulate the Defence Minister for making the categorical stand known to this **House** and to the whole ocuntry that so far as our defence preparedness is concerned, all other countries must be told to keep thei$_r$ hands off and not to poke their dirty noses into this. There is one aspect of the matter which arises from this question and which I want him to answer. It is this. The U.S. Defence Department is alleged, since it is in quote, to have put in its report "emerging military to military relations with India because of its key role in maintaining regional peace" Firstly, I would like to know what "its key role in maintaining regional peace" means I have not read this export. Whose key role in maintaining **regional peace"? I**s it the United States of America? Is it India?

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: India.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: If it is India, then there is one more question I have to ask. I hope it is India. While seeking military cooperation on technological ground which, every country is entitled to, has this ever been the premise of the United States of America that they are entitled to interfere in our military preparedness, in our Military and defence purchases etc.? Do We have ever to disclose any of these things while we are going in for technological cooperation with the United States of America, as a fact?

SHRI K. C. PANT: So far as the quote is concerned, the quote in the question is not quite accurate in the sense that the ideas in that quote are correct. Though they hav$_e$ been picked up from that document, but they are at two different places. The question ha$_s$ clubbed them to gether.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: It is a PTI report from Washington.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Even the PTI report can also be wrong sometimes. But the two concepts which have been mentioned are in that particular report. It is a report which is given. I believe, by the US Department of Defence to the Congres and will be discussed there and then finalised.I do not really want to comment on the contents of that report: But on the basic question of our role in maintaining regional peace, we do not look upon ourselves as policemen of the region and we do not believe that any country should k upon itself as a policeman in the world. Normally we have some responsibility for defence.. . .

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Don't you hove some responsibility for the region? Look at what happened in Maldives.

SHRT K. C. PANT: We have responsibility for defence and we respond whenever friendly legitimate countries ask us fcr assistance and we certainly respond. But *it* is in that spirit and by and large the role that we have played in the last two years has won us at least our Armed Forces, appreciation for the excellent performance that they have put in and people in the country and outside have seen what they can do when they are **put** to

the test. So far as the disclosure of information is concerned, I must make it clear to the hon. Member—he is a very knowledgeable Member—that we want to buy certain things from the United States. It is not the other way round and it is they who impose resrictions on sending some sensitive equipment or technology here. So, it is in our interest and we give as much information as we have to in order to procure that equipment.

SHRl SUKOMAL SEN: Sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in the recent past any U.S. military team was allowed to inspect any of our defence installations or defence production units. If so, what are the units and installations and what is the business they have brought?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Well, I cannot offhand tell you whether anyone has visited any of our installations. It is emits normal quite normal and usual, for many scientists or even military people to visit some of the installations, but offhand' I cannot tell you I can tell you the names of people who have visited this country, those details I have the chief of staff has visited or other officers have visited, or our officers have gone. All those details I have and the programmes are arranged. I can easily find that out and supply you the information.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Would you supply that information later on?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Yes.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN- That is all right...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: My question relates to the engine for the LCA. You hav$_e$ contracted with the General Electric for 404 engines and I think it was for 10 engines for 10 aircraft. And you also just admitted that our programme for the engines i$_s$ going a litttle slow. So, if a position emerges that we have our airframes ready and no engines—of course ten engines would be imported—have you thought of asking them, or contracting with them just now additionally for 50 or 60 engines, because tomorrow if they refuse us permission for more engjnes we are going! to be in a soup? That is my supplementary. And part (b) of my question is whether the Pentagon officials have said that unless we sign the general security of military information agreement, they might not be in a position to give us these engines. Have we replied to that inquiry from the USA?

SHRI K. C. PANT: In 1985 itself these GE 404 engines wer$_e$ released for LCA under a defence technology cooperation. But so far as placing orders for more engines is concened, I think it is premature and unless our scientists decide thpt more are necessary, I would not like to place the orders.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: The other part of my question is whether they have asked us to sign the general security of military information agreement and was that a pre -condition to buying the LCA engines?

SHRI K. C. PANT: My note says that the Defence technology cooperation commenced with the release of GE 404 engines for' the LCA i$_n$ 1985. That is what my note says.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Reports have appeared that some kind of a defence specialist has recently been posted in our Embassy in Washington, i would like to know if this i$_s$ a fact. Further, if this is on account of my initiative taken by the Ministry of Defence, the$_n$ what exactly would tnis defence specialist be doing in the Embassy? It is an innovative step. Therefore, i$_s$ it as a consequence of a realisation that possibly the military attaches that are there, are not doing their jobs satisfactorily? T would be grateful if the hon. Minister informed us as to what exactly is this defence specialist going to do in our Embassy in Washington.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I was trying to find out !f we have sent any defence specialist as such, because there is $_a$ military officer, as my hon. friend rightly said, who should be able t$_0$ take care of the normal requirements of the situation. Whether

LCA cooperation has called for farther strengthening of the scientific level or not, 1 will find out and if this question continues, I have asked for informaiton and will tot you know.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: What is involved here is our national interest which is very significant, whether it relates.to the acceleraiton of modernisation of our defence technology or the status of Indo-US relations, particularly with regard to possibility of transfer of technology to India or the extent of US healthy appreciation of our stand in the defence field. ,Now, I feel reassured as other Members that the Minister has said that there will be no abatement so far as modernisation of technology is concerned. I would seek a further assurance from him whether this modernisation precess will be accelerated regardless of the source of this modernisation, whether it is 'X, or 'Y' country, or where the 'X' country is hesitant or putting conditions of one kind or the other. Part (b) of my question is that eversince the last understanding at the highest level between the Indian Prime Minister and the Reagan Administration, what has been the subsequent thinking of the US Government, particularly Bush Administration, on the status of memorandum of understanding so far as transfer of technology is concerned. Has there been categorical re-endorsement of Bush Administration that the memorandum of understanding can, and it will, be implemented in full spirit of the initial understanding and whether there has been substantia] progress in that regard? Part (c) of my question is that so far as Indo-US relations are concerned, in this field, there is always up and down and I think that the Congressmen and Senators in the US take a certain stand. Whether they are ill-informed or motivated in a particular way, I do not know. But what are the efforts being made at our level, whether through diplomatic channel or military attache channel or the highest level of Government channel, to see that there is a better appreciation at that level so far as Indian stand is concerned particularly when we know that they have a particular stand in relation to China and Pakistan which is not consistent with their sand on India.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Firstly in relation to hon. Member, Shri Jaswant Singh's question, an officer, Consular level, has been posted to look after LCA procurement work...

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: His name is Amitabh Malik.

- SHRI K. C. PANT: Shri Jaswant Singh should thank him for the name. Now, as far as modernisation programme is concerned, I have already said that we will go ahead with modernisation of technology; we will go ahead with upgradation of equipment and we have today the capability in the country to attend to a very wide range of modernisation efforts both in our R&D labs and in our production units. We have that capability and we can use that capability to the full. In fact, we are anxious to use the total capability in the country to the full whether in the Government sector or in the civil secotr or in the public sector or in the private sector.

So far as the MOU and the Prime Minister's visit are concerned, the Prime Minister's visit broke new grournd and the understanding that we achieved has resulted in a gradual increase in the visits and in the other programmes about which I mentioned earlier. But it is an exploratory process in some areas and a slow process in some other areas. I do not want to give the impression that everything is smooth. We discuss. We try to see that there is better understanding. Our embassy there and others are also all the time, in contact with the US Government as well as the Senators and the Congressmen. They are doing this job. I Presume that Members here also hp.ve contacts with their counterparts there when they go there and when Congressmen come here. This also helps. Both are open countries. Both are free countries. Both countries have a *free* Press. If there are differences in perception. We hope that common points would be better appreciated. At the same time, we also do not ignore the differences in perception which do exist.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, जहां तक मंत्री महोदय ने यह घोषणा की कि "अग्नि" की जो परीक्षा हो रही है उसमें किसी तरह का बाहरी हस्तक्षेप बरदाश्त नहीं करेंगे, यह स्वागत के योग्य कदम है अच्छी बात है... (व्यवधान) मैं उनको पसंद करता हूं । हमारे बगल में हमारे मित्र स्वामी जी बहुत चिंतित हो रहे हैं शायद...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: How is it that Glassnostist has begun to speak on behalf of America?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : अब हम किसके बिहाफ पर बोलेंगे वह तो हम जानते है पर आप अमेरिका के लिए मुग्ध है ।

श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी : अब ग्लासनोस्त के बाद हमारी कोई जरूरत नहीं है ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : जो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि एशिया के इस भूखण्ड में शांति को भंग करने का अगर कोई भी राष्ट्र सबसे ज्यादा प्रयास कर रहा है तो वह अमेरिका है और हम रे पड़ोसी राष्ट्र को अगर आधुनिकतम हथियार कोई दे रहा है तो वह भी अमेरिका है... (व्यवधान) आप भी सुन लीजिए । स्वामी जी हर वक्त तो अमेरिका की तरफ से बोलेंगे, कभी कभी ही बोलते हैं... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, is he a king a question of me or is he asking a question of the Minister ? Let him clarify that. This is not Soviet Parliament where they can be turned upside down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sitting there you are just before his eye-.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Whenever anything is said about America. Mr. Swamy gets up immediately.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : He spoke about me and not about America. Is he equating Americ$_a$ with me? I **was onl**y educated in America.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : That is not my concern. I am only asking my question Please have patience.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, you too are educated in America.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : मैंने यह कहा कि इस क्षेत्र में सबसे ज्यादा डिस्टर्बेन्स अमेरिका से होता है... (व्यवधान) और जिनसे हमको खतरा है उनको भी आधुनिकतम शस्त्रों से या टेक्नालाजी से अमेरिका ही सहायता करता है । इस पृष्ठभूमि में हमारे अमेरिका से जो संबंध हो रहा है । इस बात की गारंटी कैसे की जा सकती है कि वह हमको अप टु डेट टेक्नालाजी देगा या जो कुछ हमको देगा वह उन राष्ट्रों को, जिनसे हमको खतरा है, सूचित नहीं करेगा । इसपर मंत्री महोदय इस संबंध में प्रकाश डालें ।

श्री के० सी० पन्त : सभापति जी, पाकिस्तान को अमेरिका से जो हथियार मिलते हैं उनके बारे में इस देश की जो राय है और सरकार की जो राय है इसको अमेरिका की सरकार अच्छी तरह से जानती है और वहां का जो इस देश का जनमत है उसको भी जानती है और वह बहुत अच्छी तरह से इस सदन के माध्यम से भी उन तक कई बार पहुंचा है । जहां तक टेक्नालाजी का सवाल है, टेक्नालाजी अप टु डेट है कि नहीं तो वे हमारे वैज्ञानिक इतने निपुण हैं कि वे इस बात को देख सकें कि अपटु डेट टेक्नालाजी दी जाए ।

अब तीसरा प्रश्न, एक जनरल सवाल यह उठता है कि ऐसे वक्त आज हम लोग दुनिया में खड़े हैं जबकि बहुत से देशों में आपस में बातचीत चल रही है कि किस तरह तनाव घटाया जाए । अमरीका और रूस में भी चलती है, अब रूस और चीन में भी चलने वाली है और इस पूरे संदर्भ को ध्यान में रखना पड़ेगा जब तक हम कोई भी नीति का आपके सामने प्रतिपादन करें ।

MR. CHAIRMAN shree Subramanian Swamy. He was so anxious *{Interruptions)*. If you are satisfied with the reply, you may not ask the question.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : How can I be satisfied with whatever the Congress says ?

Sir, the question was based on a PTI release, where as if it had also included the UNI release, there would have been more complete question. *(Interruptions).* He is a pressman and he does not know this. Sir, subsequent to this press release there was another release which said that the United States Congress have at 'east in their discussions and deliberations not only said that they would suspend military assistance or military technology transfer or whatever it is, but even trade relations will suffer if the super power pressure will suffer if the Government of lndia went ahead with the Agni Now I have gone through the parliamentary record and I find that the Government has still not stated categorically in Parliament—they may have stated it outside—that irrespective of the super power ' pressure Agni will not suffer whatever the price we have to pay. You know it how the U.S. and the Soviet Union are now working in tandem all along the world. So, I would like to know whether the Minister is willing to say this in Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already said it.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I have said what needs to be said and needs to be understood.

Technology Transfer Agreements with the Private Sector

202. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Research Development Corporation has recently signed technology transfer agreements in high techniaue areas with the private sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; including the type of technology which would be transferred and in which sector; and

(c) whether the National Research Development Corporation is also making a headway in the export market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OE STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRl K. R, NARAYANAN) ; A Statement is laid on the Table of the Hou^e.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has signed technology transfer agreements with the private sector relating to the production of the following high technology products : Sacrificial Anode,; for Cathodic (Anti-Corrosion) Protection, Insecticides (Monocrotcphos, Phosphamidon, DDVP), High Purity Chromium Metal, Thick Film Hybrid Micro Circuits, Phosphor for Black and White TV Picture Tubes and Disposable Blood Bags.

(c) Yes, Sir. With hardly any hard currency exports in 1984-85 and 1985-86, NRDC has secured over the period 1986-87 to 1988-89, Contracts/Letters of Intent for contracts for export projects; worth Rs. 5.6 Crores (US 3.75 million; involving several indigenously developed technologies. The contracts secured in 1986-87 have already been executed successfully and work on those secured in the subsequent year is under way. NRDC expects to finalise further contracts worth Rs. 2.25 Crores (US 1.5 million) during 1989-90.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Mr. Chairman. Sir, may I know whether in order to prevent repetitive import of technology and foreign knowhow National Research Development Corporation has created a technology pool to provide the latest available technology in India to the new entrepreneurs eliminating the need for duplicity and repetition in the import of some technology, so as to prevent| drain of precious foreign exchange reserves ? If so, what are the details of such a technology pool and how is it being operated ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Sir, the NRDC ili drawing technologies from all the Indian laboratories as well as from private individual inventors. They get the